

7 MAY 1975

Approved For Release 2005/01/11 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000200230034-4

CIA 1.01 Colby, William

01291 Commonwealth

Club

Colby: We can't quit spying now.

Warning against a "hysterical focus on the nits and picks of yesterday," CIA Director William E. Colby said, today America must stay in the spy business as long as it is only "30 minutes away from an armed and cocked nuclear missile."

The mistakes and abuses of the CIA are few and far between, Colby told a Commonwealth Club luncheon, and should not be used to fetter the agency.

"We cannot allow the public's perception of this essential service to be dominated by the missteps, few and far between, which it (CIA) might have made over its

27-year history," he said.

"Our American public, with its basic good sense, recognizes that it would be dangerous to live without intelligence in a world in which we are 30 minutes away from an armed and cocked nuclear missile."

The current investigations into domestic spying and other activities of the CIA and FBI should not, Colby warned, cut off the flow of information necessary to help keep world peace.

He did not go into allegations about the CIA's involvement in assassinations or attempted murders of top foreign government leaders.